

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3261

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY CONATRY

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

AMCONSUL CAPETOWN

AMCONSUL KADUNA

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CAPETOWN FOR AMEMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XA, AO, SF, WA, NI

SUBJECT: OBASANJO ADDRESS AT LUANDA CELEBRATIONS

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REF: LAGOS 1349 AND LAGOS 1497

1. FEB 8 AND 9 PRESS CARRIES EXCERPTS LT. GENERAL OBASANJO'S SPEECH AT LUANDA PARADE AND MASS RALLY MARKING FIFTEENTH ANNIVERSARY ANGOLAN LIBERATION STRUGGLE. (SIZABLE CONTINGENT NIGERIAN JOURNALISTS ACCOMPANIED OBASSANJO TO LUANDA AND ARTICLES APPARENTLY ARE THEIR PRODUCTS.) ASIDE FROM THE EXECTED EXPRESSIONS OF APPROVAL OVER RECENT MPLA MILITARY VICTORIES, OBASANJO EXPRESSED HOPE THAT NETO REGIME WOULD NOT REGARD AS ENEMIES THOSE AFRICAN STATES WHICH HAD NOT SUPPORTED IT. FMG NUMBER TWO LEADER ALSO CALLED FOR ALL ANGOLANS, BOTH WITHIN AND OUTSIDE THE MPLA TO QTE BE WELDED TOGETHER FOR THE GREAT TASK OF RECONSTRUCTION. UNQTE.

2. SELECTED PASSAGES NETO'S ADDRESS TACKED ONTO ARTICLES REPORTING OBASANJO REMARKS. NETO SAID TO HAVE REMINDED HIS AUDIENCE THAT MPLA IS FIGHTING REGULAR ARMY OF SOUTH AFRICA AND ELEMENTS OF ZAIRE'S ARMED FORCES. HE UNDERSTOOD TO HAVE STATED THAT INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY MEANT GIVING AS WELL AS RECEIVING ASSISTANCE AND THAT ANGOLA WOULD NOW DEMONSTRATE SOLIDARITY IN CAUSE OF "COMRADE PEOPLE" OF NAMIBIA.

3. SPEECHES AND GOODWILL MESSAGES REPORTEDLY HEARD AT RALLY FROM FOLLOWING GOVERNMENTS, OTHER BODIES: TANZANIA, GUINEA, MAURITIUS, BENIN, ALGERIA, SOVIET UNION, SUDAN, MOZAMBIQUE, GUINEA BISSAU, TIMOR EAST, CONGO, CUBA, VIETNAM, LIBYA, SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE, SWAPO AND (INTRIGUINGLY)" REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ANIT-IMPERIALIST MOVEMENTS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA."

4. COMMENT: OBASANJO'S REMARKS REFLECT FMG BELIEF THAT MPLA HAS OR VERY SOON WILL GAIN SUFFICIENT CONTROL IN ANGOLA SO THAT IT MAY BEGIN PROCESS OF NATIONAL RECONSTRUCTION. HIS EXHORATION THAT MPLA HOLD NO GRUDGES AGAINST THOSE AFRICAN COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE NOT SUPPORTED IT APPARENTLY REPRESENTS FMG HOPE THAT PROBLEM WHICH WAS DIVIDED AFRICA WAS WELL AS ANGOLA CAN BE SMOOTHED OVER WITH LEASE AMOUNT OF RECRIMINATION NETO'S STATEMENT OF INTENTION TO AID NAMIBIAN LIBERATION CAUSE WILL FIND EAGER EARS HERE.
EASUM

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